

November 12, 2003

**Public Notice for Section 401 Water Quality Certification
Rocky Point Passing Lanes Project
WDID No. 1B03165WNTR**

Trinity County

On August 27, 2003, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application and a \$2250 fee from the California Department of Transportation (DOT), requesting a Section 401 Water Quality Certification for a passing lane project. The project proposes to construct two westbound and eastbound passing lanes at two locations in State route 299 in Trinity County. The project area is located east of Weaverville, T33N, R10W, Sections 25 and 26, T33N, R9W, Section 30, and T32N, R10W, Section 1, within the Middle Trinity River Hydrologic Area No. 106.30.

Work will include a cut of approximately 0.30 acre for construction of the westbound passing lanes near an existing rest area. Eastbound passing lanes will require approximately 15,000 cubic meters excavation at Rocky Point. Construction of the Eastbound passing lanes will also require removal of a small strip of riparian habitat near culvert East to West (78+00). It is anticipated that a total of 13 culverts, located within the lane construction area, will be extended. Two staging areas will be used for the project. The staging area for westbound construction is located at Post Mile (PM) 57.6. The eastbound lane construction staging area is located at PM 55.9. A site located at PM 55.0 will be used for disposing of earthen material. This area can accommodate approximately 16,000 cubic meters of material.

Permanent impacts below the high water mark of waters considered to be Waters of the U.S. are projected at approximately 0.006 acre. Compensatory mitigation will consist of replanting 0.803 acre of burned area at Sidney Gulch, including riparian areas.

Project activities will be conducted in accordance with Nationwide Permit No. 14 (Road Crossing) from the United States Army Corps of Engineers, pursuant to the Clean Water Act, Section 404. California DOT as the lead agency, has determined a Class 2 Categorical Exemption for this project, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. The applicant has applied for a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (1601 Permit) from California Department of Fish and Game.

Staff is proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act Authority. Staff will consider all comments received during a 21-day comment period beginning on the first date of posting this notice. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Miguel Villicana at (707) 576-2347 or at villm@rbl.swrcb.ca.gov.